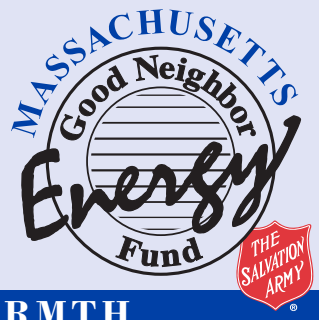




The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund



GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH

- The Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, due to temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state or federal assistance.
- Last year, the Good Neighbor Energy Fund helped more than 1,245 households pay an electric, gas or oil bill.
- Since 1985, the Fund has raised more than \$21 million and assisted over 87,250 households in need.
- Sponsoring gas, electric and oil companies support their respective customers' generosity through various giving programs.
- To qualify for assistance from the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, an applicant's gross household income must fall between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels.
- Households with a broad range of income levels are eligible for the Fund. For example, a household of four can receive assistance if it has a total gross yearly income of between \$66,115 and \$88,153.
- This year's maximum disbursement is \$425 per eligible household per heating season.

Fund Kicks Off 33rd Annual Campaign

Celebrating its 33rd year of providing energy assistance to Massachusetts residents in temporary crisis, the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund and its sponsoring energy companies held their annual breakfast on November 8th, 2017 to help kick off the "Give the Gift of Warmth" campaign.

Hosted this year by long-time Fund sponsor National Grid, the breakfast served as the official start to the 2017-18 campaign, which has a fundraising goal of \$500,000. Cordi O'Hara, President and COO for the Massachusetts Jurisdiction at National Grid, welcomed attendees and thanked the 21 utilities across the state for their support of the Fund, as well as The Salvation Army which administers the GNEF.



Cordi O'Hara
President & COO
Massachusetts Jurisdiction
National Grid

"The combination of the successful 33-year history of the Good Neighbor Energy Fund along with the enthusiasm of everyone here today, makes me especially confident that we will expand on the good work of the Fund this campaign year and make a difference in the lives of thousands of families in temporary crisis across the state," said O'Hara.

The Honorable Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, served as the keynote speaker at the breakfast. He provided an update on energy legislation in the state and shared his continued support of the Fund.



Rep. Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker, Massachusetts
House of Representatives



Mike Wankum
Meteorologist, WCVB-TV5

The kick off also featured the following speakers: WCVB-TV5 Meteorologist Mike Wankum, who was back by popular demand to give his predictions on what kind of weather to expect for the winter season and the possible impact it might have on the urgency of need; Major David B. Davis, Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army, who provided insight into the vital role the GNEF plays across the state; and Patrick Murray, Chairperson of the GNEF and Customer Satisfaction and Regulatory Compliance Lead Supervisor for National Grid.



Major David B. Davis
Divisional Commander
The Salvation Army

To further illustrate the good work of the Fund, a former recipient described how the GNEF helped her family through a tough time when they were in temporary crisis and in need of energy assistance.

Although many of the Fund's sponsoring energy companies provide a donation at various points throughout the year, a number of sponsors presented their grants towards the end of the breakfast to ensure that eligible families in need may be helped as soon as possible.

O'Hara closed by referencing the more than 87,000 households in the Commonwealth that have received assistance from the Fund since its inception in 1985. "Let's all work together to exceed this year's \$500,000 fundraising goal and make sure no family who applies and is eligible for the Fund goes to bed cold this winter season."

Thank You GNEF Sponsors

Ashburnham Municipal Light	Merrimac Municipal Light Department
Atlas Glen-mor	National Grid
Belmont Municipal Light	North Attleborough Electric Department
Berkshire Gas	Reading Municipal Light
Braintree Electric Light Department	Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant
Columbia Gas of Massachusetts	Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric
Eversource Energy	Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light
Groton Electric Light	Wellesley Municipal Light Plant
Holyoke Gas & Electric	Westfield Gas & Electric
Liberty Utilities	
Littleton Electric Light	
Mansfield Municipal Electric	

Do You Qualify?

The GNEF's 2017-18 income eligibility guidelines are as follows:

Household Size	Total Gross Yearly Income
1	\$34,380 - \$45,840
2	\$44,958 - \$59,944
3	\$55,537 - \$74,049
4	\$66,115 - \$88,153
5	\$76,693 - \$102,257
6	\$87,272 - \$116,363
7	\$89,255 - \$119,007
8	\$91,239 - \$121,652

Anthony Recognized With Chairman's Award

At last year's GNEF kick off, James Hunt, Senior Vice President at Eversource Energy and Mary Ellen Molloy (right), the 2016-17 GNEF Chairperson and Regulatory Relations Specialist at Eversource, presented Virginia Anthony (middle), former Chairperson of the GNEF and Manager of Consumer Services at Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, with the ninth annual GNEF Chairman's Award for her leadership and dedication to the Fund.



GNEF Sets Goal to Meet Anticipated Need

Massachusetts residents' support of their neighbors in need was evident during last year's campaign as the Fund surpassed \$450,000 in donations while assisting more than 1,245 households. As the economy continues to rebound, the Fund's goal for 2017-18 has been set at \$500,000. It is anticipated that the money raised will help provide energy assistance to more than 1,500 Massachusetts families this winter season and throughout the spring. The Salvation Army, which administers the Fund, is already beginning to see a rise in the number of phone calls from families in need. In fact, the Fund expects to receive thousands of requests for aid this winter alone.

And the need doesn't end with the cold weather. Families in temporary crisis also request assistance with their energy bills even when the weather

warms up. The need is year-round.

To make a donation, please look for the green Good Neighbor donation envelope provided with your utility bill, take advantage of some companies' "add a dollar" program whereby customers are asked to contribute a dollar of more on their utility bills or simply visit www.magoodneighbor.org.

Also, those that are in need can visit the more than 30 local Salvation Army Community Centers throughout the state.



For more information, call:

Eastern Massachusetts

1-800-334-3047
(Serving Area Codes 508, 617, 781 & 978)

Western Massachusetts

1-800-262-1320
(Serving Area Code 413)

You may also visit:

www.magoodneighbor.org

Give The Gift of Warmth

A note received by The Salvation Army

Dear Sir or Madam:

My wife and I are hard working people who do the best we can to make ends meet for our family. We provide for our daughter who is currently in college, as well as my disabled brother which makes it very hard to keep up with all the bills along with the mortgage. It got to a point where we were going to have to make some hard choices.

I ended up calling Self Help for assistance with our heating bill but we were just over its income guidelines. I contacted The Salvation Army and they told me about the Good Neighbor Energy Fund. I was quickly given preliminary approval for the Fund over the phone and received an appointment within a week. They were very sensitive to my situation and it was a huge weight lifted off my shoulders when I found out we were going to receive assistance from the Fund. I felt so blessed when the oil was delivered to my home within two days as we were close to running out!

Thank you for being there in my family's time of need.